

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to have all of their stations forego regular programming to air an anti-Kerry program days before the election demonstrates the dangers of media consolidation. Local stations cannot serve their communities when controlled by corporate headquarters. Furthermore, the airing of this program over the public airwaves violates the public interest. A free press is essential to a democracy. Licenses to broadcast over the public airwaves should require that the public's right to know a full and balanced story be protected.